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MONTANA ECONOMIC INDICATORS

SPRING 1975

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Employment, Hours and Earnings, and Labor Turnover data produced in cooperation with U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the Manpower Administration

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ANALYSIS - 1ST QUARTER 1975

Since the last publication of Montana's "Economic Indicators" (February 1975), weather patterns may have distorted Montana's already depressed economy. Record snow and rain falls have plagued industries that normally resume outside activities this time of year. Agriculture and construction are most readily indentified as victims from the weather. The wood products industry may have been affected by unseasonal weather conditions, but depressed conditions at the national level is the primary reason for below normal employment in this industry.

Montana's economy is still in the midst of the recession as the Coinciding Indicators show. The number of unemployed has increased 40.2% over last year and the unemployment rate has increased two percentage points during the same time period. These figures do not include discouraged workers who leave or do not re-enter the labor force because they feel no jobs are available.

The seemingly bright spots in the Coinciding Indicators should be viewed with some skepticism. For example, the Insured Unemployed indicator displayed a decrease of 8.8% over the preceding month, but had actually increased 56.5% over last year. The rebate for the purchase of new cars may have provided the stimulus for New Car Registrations to increase 49% over last year.

Montana's Composite and Selected Indicators, for the most part, are displaying negative trends. Weather conditions may have had an effect in Oil and Gas Wells Completion over the previous month as shown by a 42.5% decrease. Oil production is down over previous periods indicating storage or imports of oil as Oil Refined is up during the corresponding time periods.

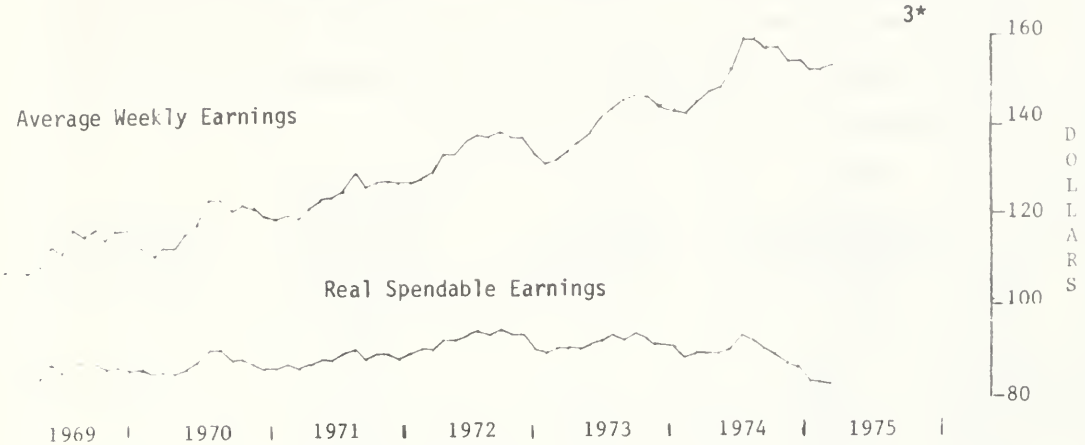
January's mild weather or the importing of natural gas may have caused Natural Gas Withdrawals in Montana to have decreased 41.6% over December. Montana's nonagricultural employment is down over previous periods, but the U.S. nonagricultural employment is only down over last month and shows an increase from one year ago. Average weekly real spendable earnings continue to decrease (see page 5 for details).

The Leading Indicators continue to display negative trends with only four of the twelve indicators displaying positive trends. Positive trends over last month include a decrease in Initial Claims of 5.8%, and increase in nonagricultural placements of 2.0%, Business Main Gains increasing 103.4%, and a decrease in Withdrawals and Dissolutions of Corporations by 10.0%. Positive trends over last year include Nonagricultural Placements increasing by 8.6%, a decreasing quit rate of 34.8%, Business Main Gains increasing 15.7%, and Withdrawals and Dissolutions of Corporations decreasing by 28.8%. Strong negative trends attributed to the recession include Total Building Permits, New Hires Rate, and the Layoff Rate. Other negative trends are displayed in the Accession Rate, Average Weekly Hours (Manufacturing) and New Corporations which again are recession related.

Since most of the economic indicators reflect negative trends and only a few display positive trends it would be foolish to forecast better times ahead within the next few months; however, because of the positive movements, Montana may have reached the bottom of the trough. The future could lend itself to a levelling off period before the recession starts to die off. If national economists are right, and the nation moves out of the recession this summer, Montana can expect better times next fall or early next year.

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS - RETROSPECT

REAL SPENDABLE AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS OF PRIVATE NONAGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION WORKERS (1967 DOLLARS)



* *Indicates last month of plotted data.*

As part of the Economic Indicators, we include a series called Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings. The purpose of this article is to briefly clarify how these figures are derived, and to provide some insight as to its meaning in regard to the average Montana non-supervisory and production worker.

The original wage data are obtained each month from a sample of Montana employers. This broad earnings spectrum contains information from all the major industrial categories except agriculture and government. After calculating the average of the weekly earnings, federal, state, and social security taxes are subtracted from the earnings to obtain the spendable average weekly earnings. Income taxes are calculated from employer withholding tax tables with the assumption that the average worker has four exemptions.

The method of adjusting for cost of living changes varies from state to state. In Montana, the Consumer Price Index is used to estimate price adjustments with 1967 being the base year. The Index averaged 147.8 during 1974, which means that it required $147.80 to purchase goods and services that $100 would have bought in 1967. Price adjustment is then subtracted from spendable earnings (earnings after taxes), to arrive at real spendable average weekly earnings, which represents the wage earners true gain or loss in purchasing power.

Year	Average Weekly Earnings (Ann. Avg.)	Percent Gain or Loss Year to Year	Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings (Ann. Avg.)	Percent Gain or Loss Year to Year
1970	$117.45	-	$86.41	-
1971	123.42	*+5.0*	87.34	*+1.1*
1972	133.28	*+8.0*	91.47	*+4.7*
1973	139.44	*+4.6*	90.36	*-1.2*
1974	151.97	*+9.0*	87.74	*-2.9*

The above chart shows annual averages for average weekly and real spendable average weekly earnings for the past five years. Notice that average weekly earnings increased by about 29.4% from 1970 to 1974, while real spendable earnings increased by only 1.5%.

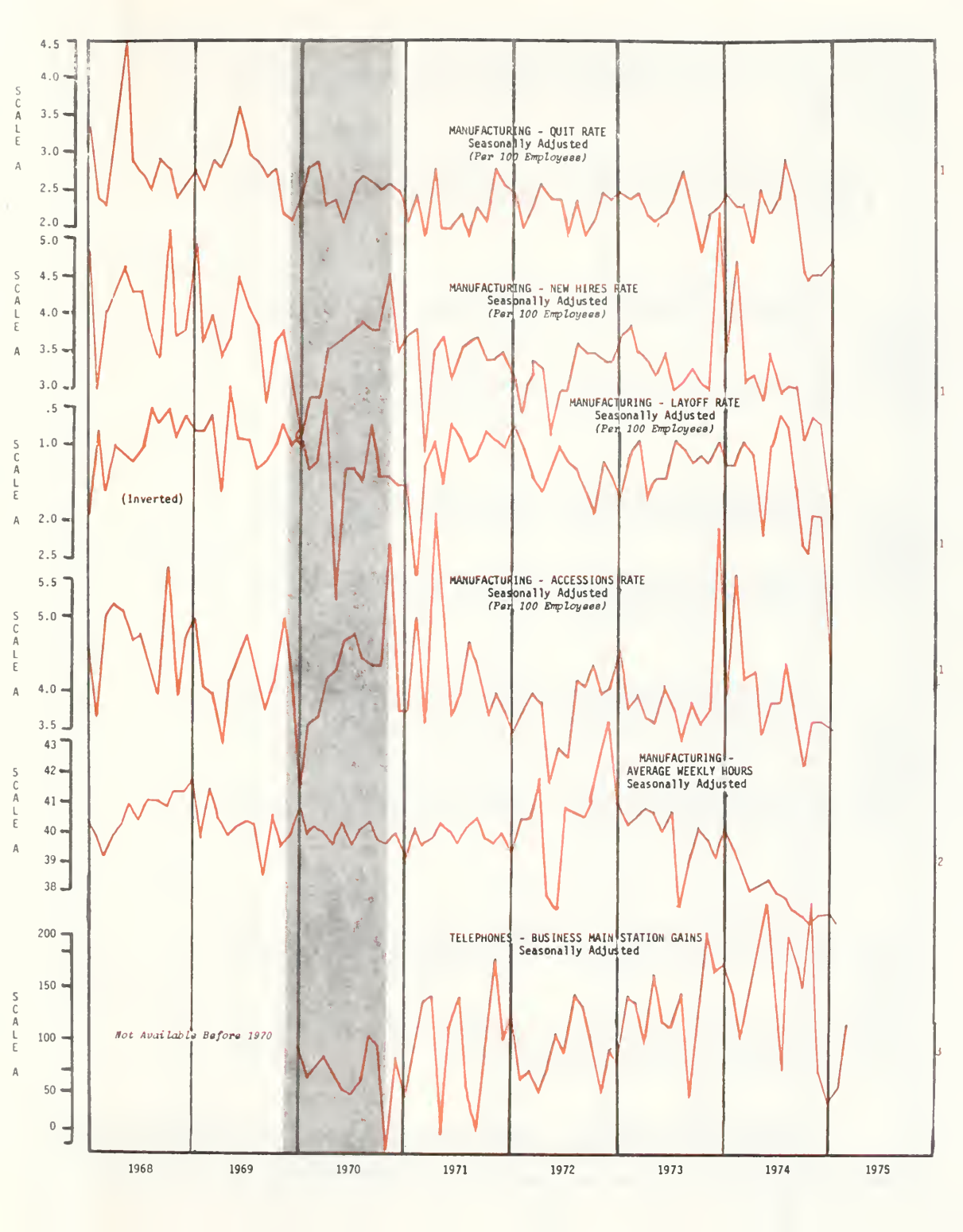
In order to further analyze just what has happened to the hypothetical average Montana production worker's wages, we will show the breakdown from weekly earnings to real spendable earnings.

	1970		1974	
	Dollars	Percent of Earnings	Dollars	Percent of Earnings
Average Weekly Earnings	$117.45	*100.0*	$151.97	*100.0*
Social Security Taxes	5.63	*4.8*	8.88	*5.8*
Montana State Income Taxes	2.28	*1.9*	2.83	*1.9*
Federal Income Taxes	8.69	*7.4*	10.69	*7.0*
Total Taxes	16.60	*14.1*	22.40	*14.7*
Spendable Average Weekly Earnings	100.85	*85.9*	129.57	*85.3*
Adjustment for Price Changes Since 1967	14.44	*12.3*	41.83	*27.5*
Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings	86.41	*73.6*	87.74	*57.7*

As can be seen, annual average weekly earnings increased by $34.52, or about 29.4% from 1970 to 1974. At the same time, taxes also increased by about 6%. The slight increase in taxes was primarily due to social security tax rate increases. In fact, state and federal income taxes actually decreased as a percent of earnings, because of higher exemption allowances for 1974. However, the gain in real spendable earnings was minimal, especially for a five-year span.

It seems that the average Montana non-supervisory production worker is taking home substantially more money than in 1970, but only about the same amount in real purchasing power.

		MANUFACTURING										TELEPHONES	
		Quit Rate (Per 100 Employees)		New Hires Rate (Per 100 Employees)		Layoff Rate (Per 100 Employees)		Accessions Rate (Per 100 Employees)		Average Weekly Hours		Main Station Gains Business	
		UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ
1973	Jan.	1.6	2.4	2.6	3.9	1.0	1.1	2.6	3.8	40.3	40.3	125	80
	Feb.	1.4	2.5	1.9	3.5	0.7	0.9	2.3	4.0	40.3	40.6	148	143
	Mar.	1.7	2.2	2.6	3.4	3.1	1.7	3.1	3.7	40.8	40.9	161	137
	Apr.	1.9	2.1	3.3	3.2	1.1	1.4	3.9	3.6	40.3	40.8	183	99
	May	2.4	2.2	4.5	3.6	0.7	1.4	5.4	4.1	39.9	40.1	325	164
	Jun.	2.3	2.4	5.5	3.0	0.5	0.9	6.4	3.8	40.5	40.7	220	122
	Jul.	2.4	2.8	3.8	3.1	0.7	1.0	4.2	3.4	37.3	37.6	172	114
	Aug.	3.1	2.2	3.7	3.3	1.5	1.2	4.2	3.9	39.8	39.3	224	147
	Sep.	3.8	1.7	4.0	3.1	1.2	1.1	4.4	3.6	40.8	40.2	-74	50
	Oct.	2.7	2.2	3.7	3.0	1.5	1.2	4.3	3.8	40.8	39.9	75	146
	Nov.	1.6	2.3	2.8	5.6	1.0	0.9	3.3	6.2	38.9	39.2	26	204
	Dec.	1.5	2.5	1.7	3.5	1.4	1.2	2.2	4.0	40.2	40.3	100	165
1974	Jan.	1.5	2.3	3.1	4.7	1.1	1.2	3.9	5.6	39.5	39.5	221	174
	Feb.	1.3	2.3	1.7	3.1	0.7	0.9	2.4	4.2	38.5	38.8	154	148
	Mar.	1.4	1.8	2.5	3.2	2.1	1.1	3.6	4.3	38.0	38.1	122	102
	Apr.	2.2	2.5	2.9	2.8	1.7	2.2	3.8	3.5	37.8	38.3	224	141
	May	2.4	2.2	4.4	3.5	0.5	1.0	5.2	3.9	38.6	38.8	344	182
	Jun.	2.4	2.5	5.2	2.8	0.3	0.5	6.7	3.9	38.1	38.3	342	244
	Jul.	2.5	3.0	4.4	3.5	0.4	0.6	5.4	4.3	37.5	37.8	204	146
	Aug.	3.4	2.4	3.4	3.0	1.9	1.5	3.8	3.5	38.8	38.3	41	78
	Sep.	3.2	1.4	2.8	2.2	2.6	2.3	3.4	2.8	38.1	37.5	95	219
	Oct.	1.5	1.2	2.6	2.1	2.9	2.4	3.5	3.1	38.1	37.2	83	156
	Nov.	0.9	1.3	1.3	2.6	2.2	1.9	1.9	3.6	36.6	36.7	62	238
	Dec.	0.8	1.3	1.2	2.5	2.2	1.9	2.0	3.6	37.0	37.1	10	75
1975	Jan.	1.0	1.5	0.7	1.1	3.6	4.0	2.4	3.5	37.2	37.2	89	42
	Feb.									36.3	36.6	64	58
	Mar.											136	118
	Apr.												
	May												
	Jun.												
	Jul.												
	Aug.												
	Sep.												
	Oct.												
	Nov.												
	Dec.												


MANUFACTURING - QUIT RATE
Seasonally Adjusted
(Per 100 Employees)
MANUFACTURING - NEW HIRES RATE
Seasonally Adjusted
(Per 100 Employees)
MANUFACTURING - LAYOFF RATE
Seasonally Adjusted
(Per 100 Employees)
(Inverted)
MANUFACTURING - ACCESSIONS RATE
Seasonally Adjusted
(Per 100 Employees)
MANUFACTURING -
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS
Seasonally Adjusted
TELEPHONES - BUSINESS MAIN STATION GAINS
Seasonally Adjusted
Not Available Before 1970
SCALE A
4.5
4.0
3.5
3.0
2.5
2.0
5.0
4.5
4.0
3.5
3.0
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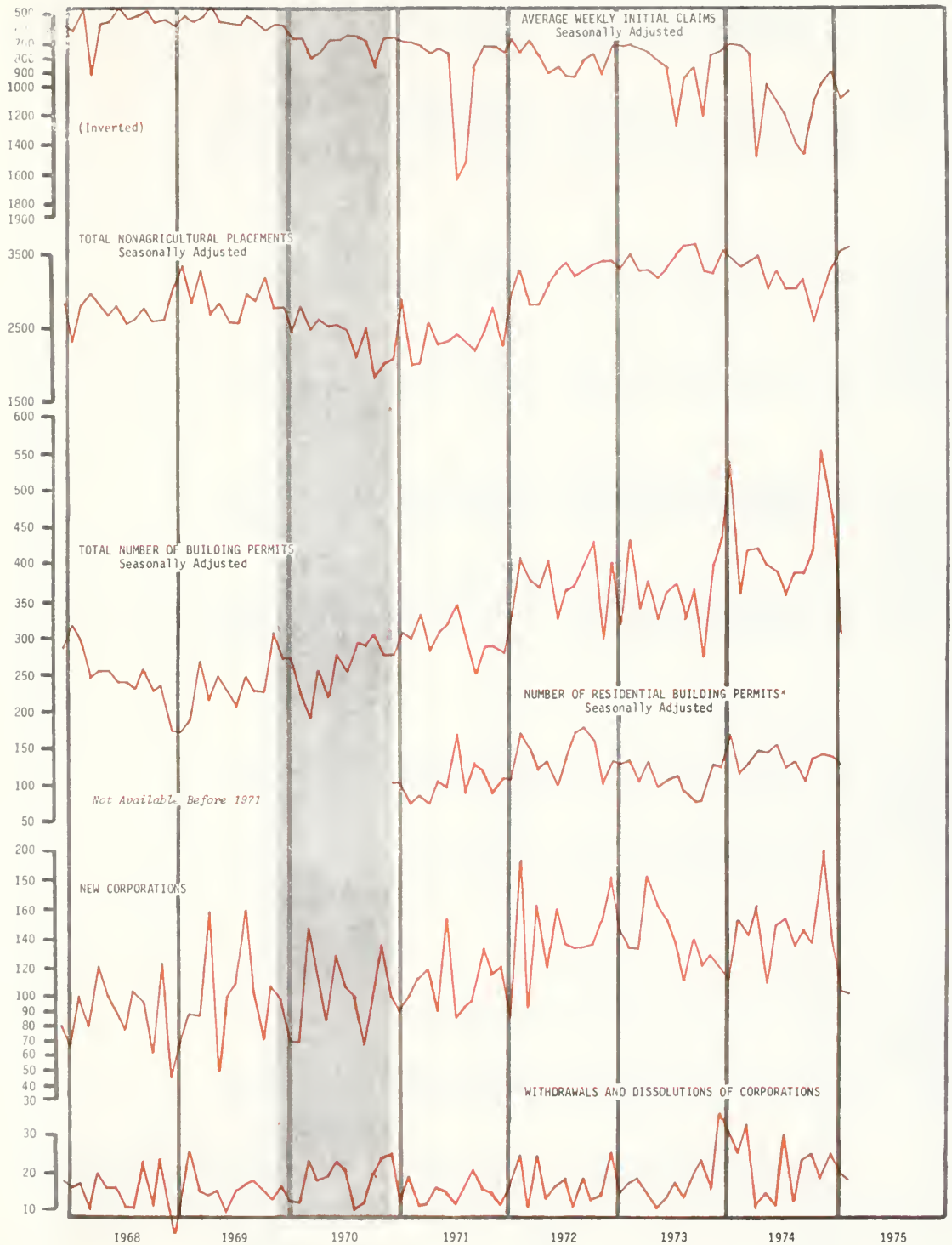
2.0
2.5
5.5
5.0
4.0
3.5
43
42
41
40
39
38
200
150
100
50
0
1968
1969
1970
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975

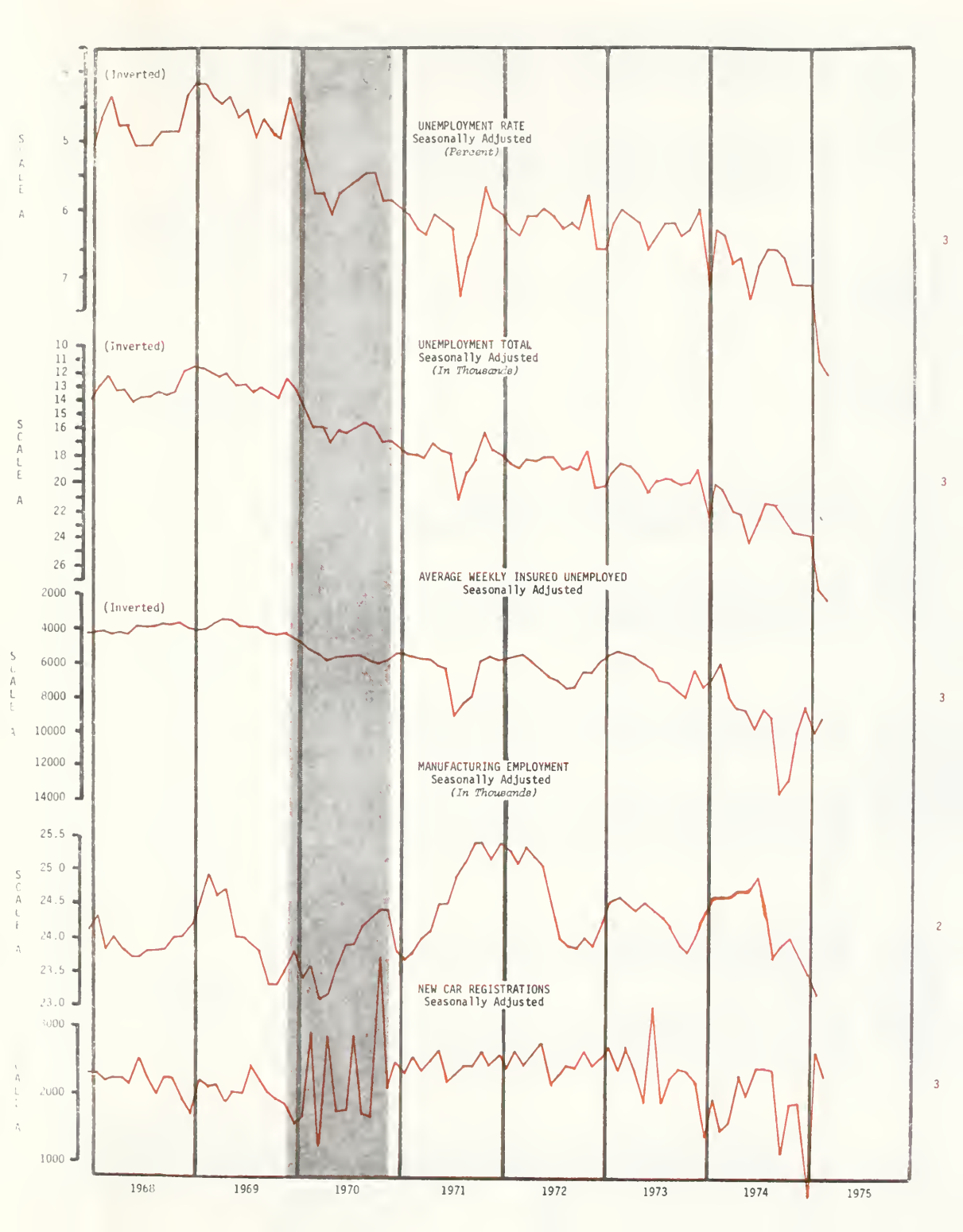
		Average Weekly Initial Claims		Total Nonagricultural Placements		Total Number of Building Permits		Number of Residential Building Permits*		New Corporations	Withdrawals and Dissolutions of Corporations
		UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ		
1973	Jan.	1,443	717	2,228	3,355	152	397	60	128	182	25
	Feb.	885	692	1,922	3,225	155	316	64	126	144	14
	Mar.	673	588	2,411	3,479	433	428	145	130	133	17
	Apr.	728	754	2,936	3,202	463	336	157	100	132	18
	May	516	875	3,747	3,230	483	370	162	127	181	14
	Jun.	561	855	3,914	3,169	419	323	108	93	161	10
	Jul.	632	978	3,972	3,237	436	356	119	105	151	13
	Aug.	769	1,482	5,738	3,473	462	368	112	109	136	17
	Sep.	555	1,051	4,476	3,584	390	321	97	88	111	13
	Oct.	772	1,007	3,752	3,587	419	363	90	74	138	19
	Nov.	1,403	1,175	2,985	3,213	223	270	68	74	123	23
	Dec.	1,167	707	1,994	3,190	183	397	93	123	127	15
1974	Jan.	1,595	792	2,336	3,518	165	431	51	120	200	36
	Feb.	948	741	2,041	3,424	262	535	101	165	110	31
	Mar.	865	755	2,281	3,291	357	353	128	111	152	25
	Apr.	788	816	3,074	3,352	565	411	181	124	140	33
	May	898	1,522	3,991	3,441	542	415	178	140	160	10
	Jun.	677	1,032	3,713	2,998	508	392	153	139	108	14
	Jul.	737	1,141	3,979	3,243	467	381	165	151	148	11
	Aug.	628	1,210	4,954	2,999	447	356	121	119	153	30
	Sep.	743	1,407	3,744	2,998	465	383	140	128	134	12
	Oct.	1,150	1,499	3,264	3,120	441	382	113	100	145	23
	Nov.	1,372	1,149	2,401	2,584	341	412	125	132	136	25
	Dec.	1,676	1,015	1,809	2,894	253	549	112	139	199	18
1975	Jan.	1,891	939	2,169	3,267	176	460	67	135	138	25
	Feb.	1,449	1,132	2,088	3,503	148	302	59	123	104	20
	Mar.	1,221	1,066	2,476	3,573					102	18
	Apr.										
	May										
	Jun.										
	Jul.										
	Aug.										
	Sep.										
	Oct.										
	Nov.										
	Dec.										

* *New Series*

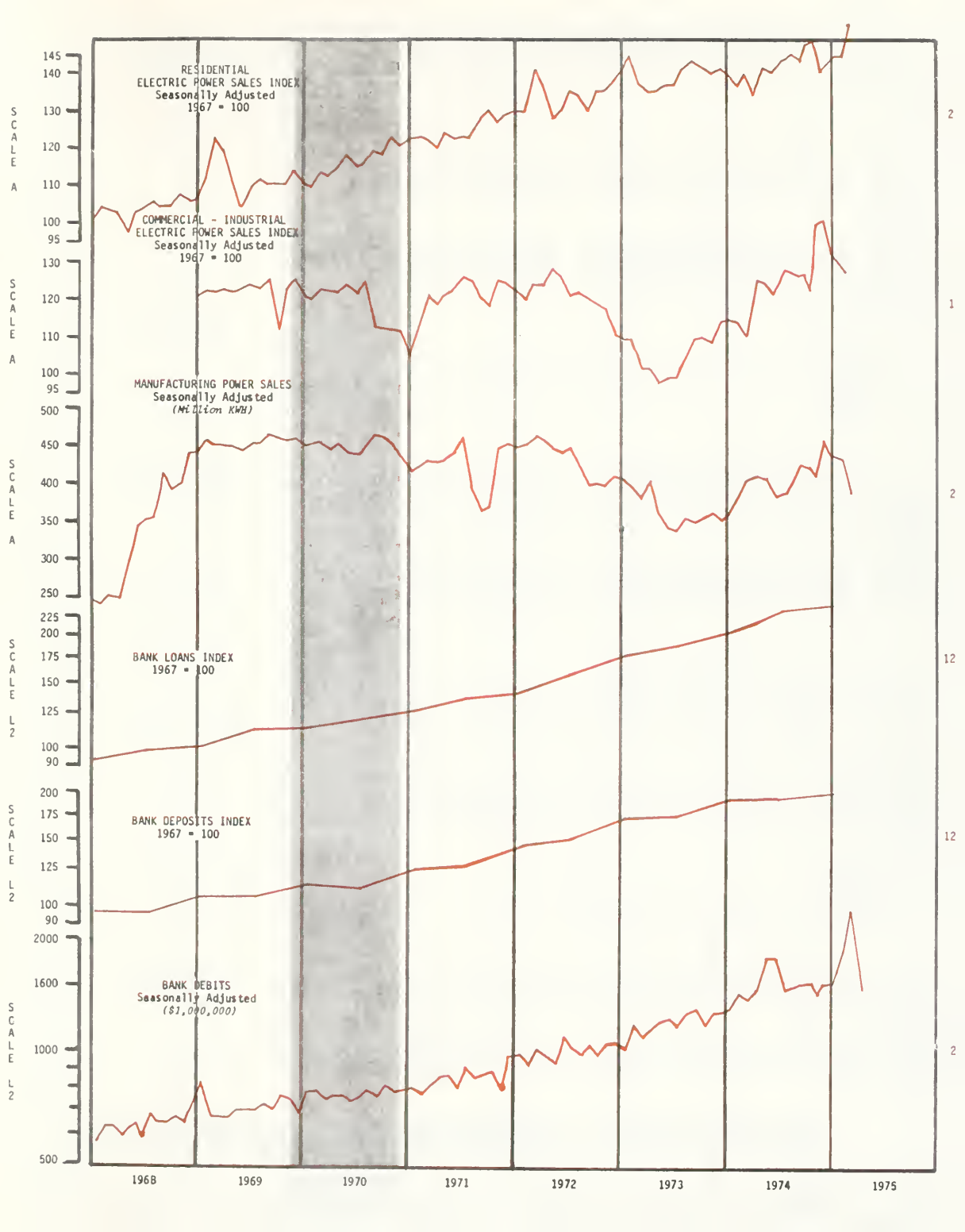

AVERAGE WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS
Seasonally Adjusted
(Inverted)
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL PLACEMENTS
Seasonally Adjusted
TOTAL NUMBER OF BUILDING PERMITS
Seasonally Adjusted
NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS*
Seasonally Adjusted
Not Available Before 1971
NEW CORPORATIONS
WITHDRAWALS AND DISSOLUTIONS OF CORPORATIONS
SCALE A
1968
1969
1970
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975

* New Series

		Unemployment Rate (Percent)		Unemployment Total (in Thousands)		Average Weekly Insured Unemployed		Manufacturing Employment (in Thousands)		New Car Registrations	
		UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ
1973	Jan.	8.8	6.5	25.1	19.6	9,352	5,418	23.7	24.4	2,084	2,648
	Feb.	8.1	6.1	23.5	18.7	9,081	5,154	24.0	24.7	2,201	2,822
	Mar.	7.3	5.9	21.6	18.0	7,823	4,899	23.6	24.7	2,679	2,490
	Apr.	6.0	6.0	18.2	18.2	5,946	4,992	23.6	24.8	3,145	2,833
	May	5.0	6.1	15.5	18.8	4,205	5,269	24.4	25.1	2,661	2,492
	Jun.	6.2	6.5	20.3	20.1	3,637	5,648	25.7	25.0	2,064	2,020
	Jul.	5.6	6.3	18.3	19.4	3,769	5,917	26.3	25.3	3,625	3,413
	Aug.	4.8	6.1	16.3	19.2	3,810	6,592	26.3	25.4	2,045	2,037
	Sep.	4.9	6.1	15.7	19.3	3,515	6,786	26.0	25.4	2,578	2,391
	Oct.	5.2	6.3	16.0	19.6	3,776	7,248	25.7	24.9	3,022	2,512
	Nov.	6.2	6.2	18.8	19.4	5,862	7,593	25.1	24.6	2,593	2,474
	Dec.	6.5	5.9	19.4	18.4	7,542	6,038	24.6	24.6	1,781	2,340
1974	Jan.	9.2	7.0	27.6	21.9	12,056	6,985	23.5	24.2	1,204	1,530
	Feb.	8.1	6.2	24.3	19.5	11,576	6,570	23.7	24.4	1,614	2,069
	Mar.	7.6	6.3	23.4	19.9	8,967	5,615	23.4	24.5	1,758	1,634
	Apr.	6.8	6.7	21.4	21.4	9,118	7,656	23.4	24.6	1,930	1,738
	May.	5.6	6.6	18.3	21.6	6,545	8,202	24.2	24.8	2,651	2,482
	Jun.	6.9	7.2	24.0	23.7	5,342	8,295	25.7	25.0	2,158	2,112
	Jul.	6.0	6.7	21.0	22.0	6,031	9,468	26.1	25.1	2,690	2,533
	Aug.	5.3	6.5	17.9	20.8	4,817	8,334	26.0	25.1	2,528	2,518
	Sep.	5.2	6.5	17.3	20.9	4,587	8,855	25.4	24.8	2,666	2,473
	Oct.	5.6	6.6	18.1	21.7	6,893	13,230	24.5	23.8	1,528	1,270
	Nov.	7.0	7.0	22.4	23.0	9,584	12,415	24.5	24.0	2,060	1,966
	Dec.	7.7	7.0	24.1	23.1	12,084	9,675	23.7	23.7	1,517	1,993
1975	Jan.	9.3	7.0	28.9	23.2	14,013	8,128	23.0	23.6	458	582
	Feb.	10.0	8.1	31.7	27.0	16,960	9,631	22.7	23.3	2,145	2,750
	Mar.	9.6	8.3	31.3	27.9	14,015	8,787			2,620	2,435
	Apr.										
	May										
	Jun.										
	Jul.										
	Aug.										
	Sep.										
	Oct.										
	Nov.										
	Dec.										


(Inverted)
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Seasonally Adjusted
(Percent)
SCALE A
5
6
7
3
(Inverted)
UNEMPLOYMENT TOTAL
Seasonally Adjusted
(In Thousands)
SCALE A
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
18
20
22
24
26
3
AVERAGE WEEKLY INSURED UNEMPLOYED
Seasonally Adjusted
(Inverted)
SCALE A
2000
4000
6000
8000
10000
12000
14000
3
MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT
Seasonally Adjusted
(In Thousands)
SCALE A
25.5
25.0
24.5
24.0
23.5
23.0
2
NEW CAR REGISTRATIONS
Seasonally Adjusted
SCALE A
3000
2000
1000
3
1968
1969
1970
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975

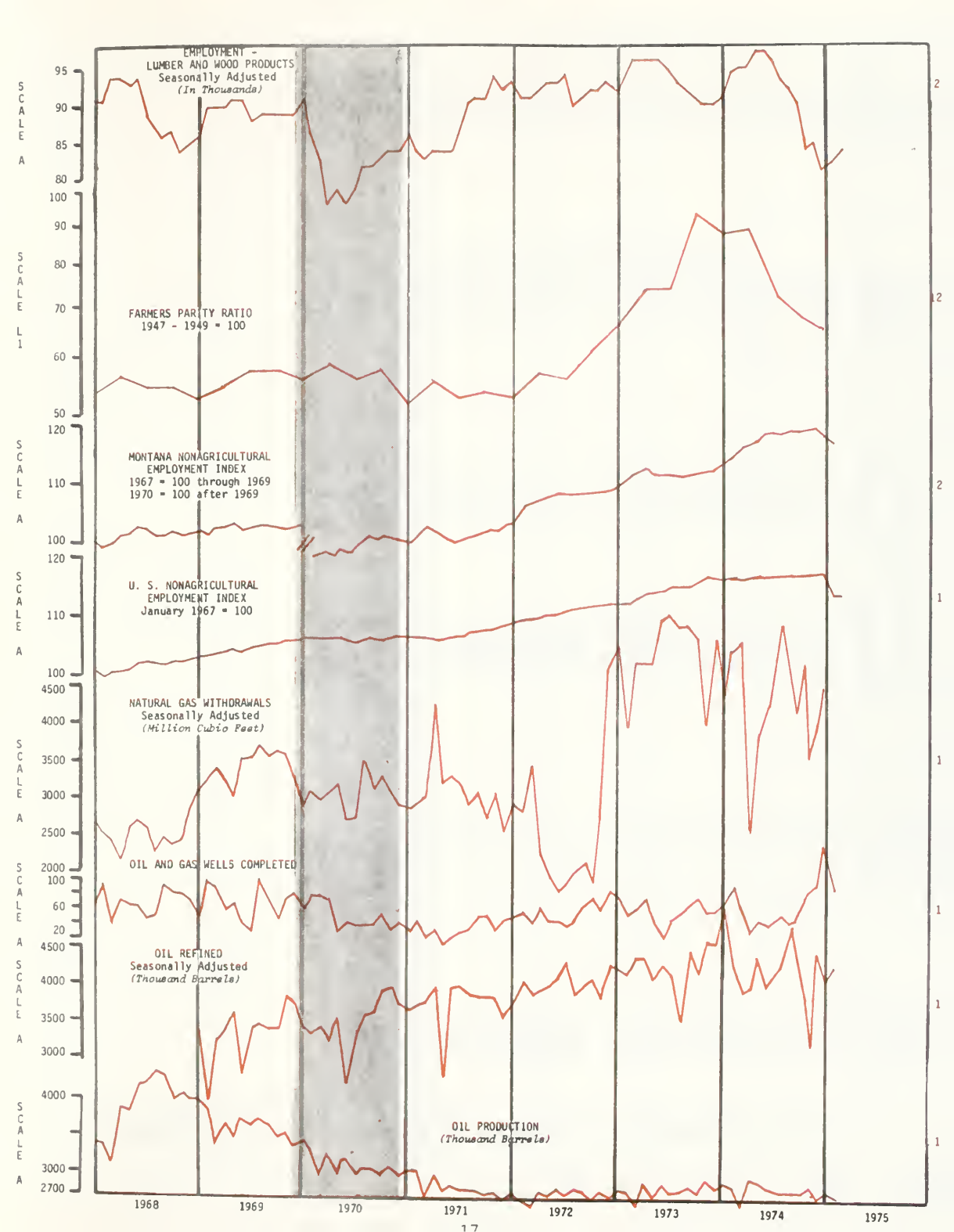
		Residential Electric Power Sales Index 1967 = 100		Commercial-Industrial Electric Power Sales Index 1967 = 100		Manufacturing Power Sales (Million KWH)		Bank Loans Index	Bank Deposits Index	Bank Debits ($1,000,000)	
		UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	UNADJ	ADJ	1967 = 100		UNADJ	ADJ
1973	Jan.	189.7	146.8	111.4	112.3	421.9	408.8			1,333.0	1,275.6
	Feb.	171.3	138.9	103.1	104.3	383.3	391.1			1,043.5	1,189.8
	Mar.	151.0	137.4	104.6	104.5	425.6	414.4			1,221.7	1,241.5
	Apr.	138.7	137.9	101.1	101.3	379.2	371.4			1,230.4	1,283.0
	May	131.3	139.0	104.7	102.5	362.0	353.2			1,259.8	1,321.9
	Jun.	120.5	138.9	100.6	102.4	345.8	350.7	199.8	179.3	1,265.4	1,252.9
	Jul.	120.3	143.6	108.7	107.7	362.6	367.0			1,341.2	1,365.8
	Aug.	122.9	145.4	112.1	112.3	354.4	360.9			1,345.6	1,394.4
	Sep.	126.0	143.8	112.0	112.7	352.9	367.2			1,187.2	1,265.7
	Oct.	126.0	142.5	112.0	111.8	367.0	372.2			1,503.8	1,373.3
	Nov.	141.2	143.7	119.3	117.0	362.3	362.7			1,506.4	1,373.2
	Dec.	160.6	141.8	116.5	117.2	376.3	371.1	214.6	197.4	1,521.5	1,388.2
1974	Jan.	179.1	138.6	115.9	116.8	404.8	392.2			1,607.0	1,537.8
	Feb.	174.1	141.2	111.4	112.6	407.6	415.9			1,293.8	1,475.3
	Mar.	149.6	136.1	127.6	127.5	431.4	420.1			1,484.5	1,508.7
	Apr.	144.6	143.7	126.7	127.0	428.8	420.0			1,782.2	1,858.4
	May	133.6	141.4	126.2	123.5	409.4	399.4			1,756.0	1,843.6
	Jun.	132.1	152.4	128.2	130.4	400.7	406.4	237.0	201.2	1,635.6	1,619.4
	Jul.	136.0	162.3	129.0	127.9	439.3	444.6			1,708.7	1,740.0
	Aug.	130.1	153.9	128.5	128.7	433.9	441.8			1,689.0	1,750.3
	Sep.	130.1	148.5	124.1	124.9	424.7	441.9			1,590.2	1,695.3
	Oct.	132.1	149.4	142.0	141.8	445.8	452.1			1,723.1	1,573.6
	Nov.	141.1	143.5	143.5	142.6	446.5	447.0			1,739.6	1,585.7
	Dec.	165.0	145.8	133.4	134.2	453.0	446.7	240.8	214.3	2,095.8	2,005.6
1975	Jan.	188.5	145.9	128.3	129.3	424.2	441.1			2,069.7	2,360.0
	Feb.	191.3	155.1			388.4	396.4			1,648.6	1,675.4
	Mar.										
	Apr.										
	May										
	Jun.										
	Jul.										
	Aug.										
	Sep.										
	Oct.										
	Nov.										
	Dec.										


RESIDENTIAL
ELECTRIC POWER SALES INDEX
Seasonally Adjusted
1967 = 100
COMMERCIAL - INDUSTRIAL
ELECTRIC POWER SALES INDEX
Seasonally Adjusted
1967 = 100
MANUFACTURING POWER SALES
Seasonally Adjusted
(Million KWH)
BANK LOANS INDEX
1967 = 100
BANK DEPOSITS INDEX
1967 = 100
BANK DEBITS
Seasonally Adjusted
($1,000,000)
SCALE A
SCALE A
SCALE A
SCALE L2
SCALE L2
SCALE L2
145
140
130
120
110
100
95
130
120
110
100
95
500
450
400
350
300
250
225
200
175
150
125
100
90
200
175
150
125
100
90
2000
1600
1000
500
2
1
2
12
12
2
1968
1969
1970
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975

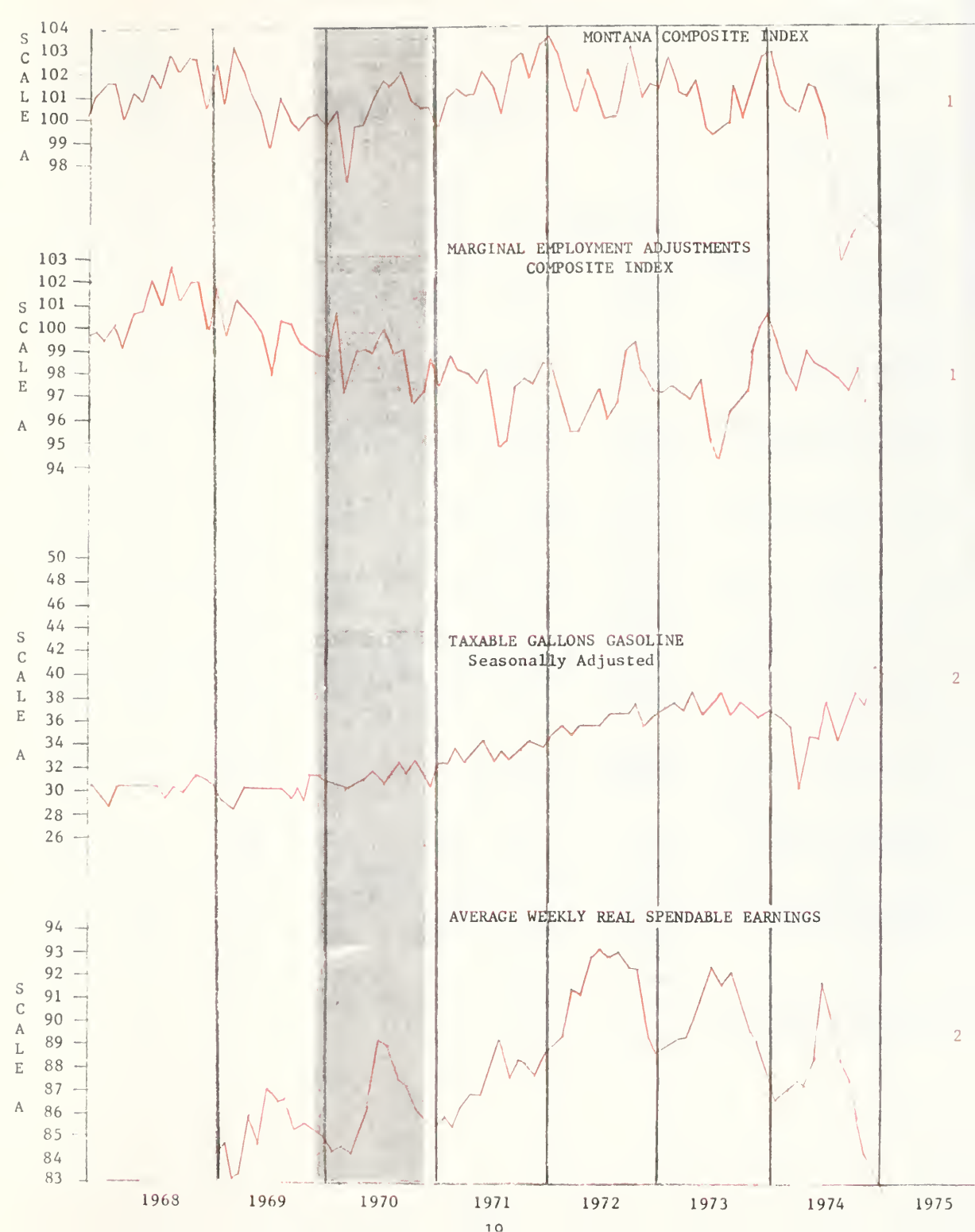
		Employment - Lumber and Wood Products *(in Thousands)*		Farmers Parity Ratio*	Nonagricultural Employment Index**		Natural Gas Withdrawals *(Million Cu.Ft.)*		Oil and Gas Wells Completed	Oil Refined *(Thousand Barrels)*		Oil Production *(Thousand Barrels)*
		UNADJ	ADJ		MONTANA	U. S.	UNADJ	ADJ		UNADJ	ADJ	
1973	Jan.	9.1	9.4		111.3	112.2	6,323	3,947	54	4,107	4,128	2,852
	Feb.	9.3	9.6		112.1	113.1	6,136	4,820	61	4,103	4,356	2,664
	Mar.	9.1	9.6	74	113.0	113.9	5,800	4,805	77	4,337	4,354	2,948
	Apr.	8.7	9.6		111.9	114.1	4,463	4,798	45	3,500	4,060	2,793
	May	9.2	9.6		111.8	114.3	4,248	5,568	23	4,302	4,276	2,982
	Jun.	9.8	9.5	74	111.9	115.0	3,931	5,673	48	4,090	4,106	2,849
	Jul.	9.7	9.2		111.6	115.0	3,888	5,460	56	3,736	3,495	2,872
	Aug.	9.7	9.2		111.7	115.0	3,805	5,482	69	4,835	4,428	2,906
	Sep.	9.6	9.1	93	111.9	115.9	3,767	5,175	76	4,319	4,141	2,853
	Oct.	9.3	9.0		112.3	116.5	3,726	3,994	57	4,505	4,555	3,020
	Nov.	9.2	9.0		112.3	116.4	5,405	5,123	59	4,368	4,545	2,896
	Dec.	9.1	9.1	87	113.4	116.3	6,213	4,397	68	5,264	5,018	2,986
1974	Jan.	9.1	9.4		114.6	116.3	7,899	4,931	91	4,205	4,226	2,907
	Feb.	9.2	9.5		116.3	116.2	6,503	5,108	53	3,644	3,868	2,667
	Mar.	9.1	9.6	88	117.2	118.6	3,029	2,509	28	3,922	3,938	3,028
	Apr.	8.9	9.8		117.5	118.8	3,571	3,840	44	3,751	4,352	2,990
	May	9.4	9.8		118.1	119.0	3,340	4,378	37	3,785	3,762	3,009
	Jun.	10.2	9.8	72	117.3	119.1	3,192	4,607	42	4,252	4,235	2,839
	Jul.	10.2	9.7		117.6	119.2	3,052	4,287	61	4,398	4,701	2,855
	Aug.	10.3	9.8		117.4	119.4	3,100	4,468	47	4,416	4,044	2,882
	Sep.	9.9	9.4	68	118.6	119.7	3,079	4,230	50	4,020	3,854	2,850
	Oct.	8.7	8.4		117.4	119.8	3,345	3,585	81	3,112	3,147	2,911
	Nov.	8.7	8.5		117.7	119.1	4,091	3,878	91	4,322	4,497	2,738
	Dec.	8.1	8.1	66	118.0	118.0	6,190	4,381	153	4,225	4,028	2,844
1975	Jan.	7.9	8.2		114.4	117.3	4,096	2,557	88	4,269	4,290	2,768
	Feb.	8.1	8.4		114.1							
	Mar.											
	Apr.											
	May											
	Jun.											
	Jul.											
	Aug.											
	Sep.											
	Oct.											
	Nov.											
	Dec.											

* *1947 - 1949 = 100*

** *MONTANA: 1967 = 100 through 1969; 1970 = 100 after 1969. U.S.: January 1967 = 100.*


EMPLOYMENT -
LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS
Seasonally Adjusted
(In Thousands)
FARMERS PARITY RATIO
1947 - 1949 = 100
MONTANA NONAGRICULTURAL
EMPLOYMENT INDEX
1967 = 100 through 1969
1970 = 100 after 1969
U. S. NONAGRICULTURAL
EMPLOYMENT INDEX
January 1967 = 100
NATURAL GAS WITHDRAWALS
Seasonally Adjusted
(Million Cubic Feet)
OIL AND GAS WELLS COMPLETED
OIL REFINED
Seasonally Adjusted
(Thousand Barrels)
OIL PRODUCTION
(Thousand Barrels)
SCALE A
SCALE L 1
SCALE A
SCALE A
SCALE A
SCALE A
SCALE A
SCALE A
95
90
85
80
100
90
80
70
60
50
120
110
100
120
110
100
4500
4000
3500
3000
2500
2000
100
60
20
4500
4000
3500
3000
4000
3000
2700
2
2
1
1
1
1
1
1968
1969
1970
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975

		MONTANA Composite Index 1967 = 100	Marginal Employment Adjustments Index 1967 = 100	Taxable Gallons Gasoline		Gross Average Weekly Earnings	Average Weekly Spendable Earnings
				Unadjusted	Adjusted		
1973	Jan.	101.6	97.4	33,296	37,779	$130.32	$88.87
	Feb.	101.5	97.3	25,844	37,908	131.77	89.02
	Mar.	102.6	97.6	33,641	38,549	133.59	89.35
	Apr.	101.3	97.3	34,229	37,610	135.05	89.52
	May	101.1	97.0	39,481	39,165	137.25	90.25
	Jun.	101.7	97.8	42,441	37,149	140.24	91.31
	Jul.	99.6	95.2	50,043	38,099	142.86	92.54
	Aug.	99.4	94.3	54,246	39,318	144.36	91.67
	Sep.	99.9	96.3	39,701	37,684	145.73	92.17
	Oct.	101.5	96.9	37,705	38,148	145.02	91.10
	Nov.	100.1	97.3	39,508	37,848	143.50	89.54
	Dec.	101.4	99.7	32,040	37,380	143.54	88.98
1974	Jan.	102.7	100.7	29,558	37,645	143.47	88.29
	Feb.	103.0	100.0	28,329	37,369	142.96	86.96
	Mar.	101.4	99.4	31,589	36,440	145.20	87.04
	Apr.	100.6	98.0	34,118	30,737	147.29	87.65
	May	100.3	97.4	36,058	35,742	148.47	87.31
	Jun.	101.6	99.0	41,047	35,755	152.21	88.35
	Jul.	101.5	98.5	49,553	38,010	159.90	91.50
	Aug.	99.4	98.1	49,938	35,010	159.84	90.31
	Sep.	97.7	97.9	38,482	37,466	157.38	88.10
	Oct.	94.3	97.2	39,202	39,645	157.75	87.46
	Nov.	96.1	98.2	35,052	38,414	154.94	85.40
	Dec.	96.9	96.7	35,294	40,706	154.28	84.52
1975	Jan.	95.8	97.7	32,027	40,163	152.28	83.19
	Feb.			28,261	37,276	152.80	82.90
	Mar.						
	Apr.						
	May						
	Jun.						
	Jul.						
	Aug.						
	Sep.						
	Oct.						
	Nov.						
	Dec.						


MONTANA COMPOSITE INDEX
MARGINAL EMPLOYMENT ADJUSTMENTS
COMPOSITE INDEX
TAXABLE GALLONS GASOLINE
Seasonally Adjusted
AVERAGE WEEKLY REAL SPENDABLE EARNINGS
SCALE A
1
2
104
103
102
101
100
99
98
97
96
95
94
50
48
46
44
42
40
38
36
34
32
30
28
26
93
92
91
90
89
88
87
86
85
84
83
1968
1969
1970
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975

INDICATOR	UNIT	MONTHLY DATA Latest Month 1975		Last Month	Last Year	PERCENT CHANGE Last Month	Last Year
LEADING INDICATORS							
Initail Claims							
Seasonally Adjusted	Avg. No./Wk.	Mar:	1,066	1,132	755	-5.8	41.2
Unadjusted	Avg. No./Wk.	Mar:	1,221	1,449	865	-15.7	41.2
Nonagricultural Placements							
Seasonally Adjusted	Number	Mar:	3,573	3,503	3,291	2.0	8.6
Unadjusted	Number	Mar:	2,476	2,088	2,281	18.6	8.5
Total Building Permits							
Seasonally Adjusted	Number	Feb:	302	460	535	-34.3	-43.6
Unadjusted	Number	Feb:	148	176	262	-15.9	-43.5
Residential Building Permits*							
Seasonally Adjusted	Number	Feb:	123	135	130	-8.9	-5.4
Unadjusted	Number	Feb:	59	67	145	-11.9	-59.3
Quit Rate							
Seasonally Adjusted	Rate/100	Jan:	1.5	1.3	2.3	15.4	-34.8
Unadjusted	Rate/100	Jan:	1.0	.8	1.5	25.0	-33.3
New Hires Rate							
Seasonally Adjusted	Rate/100	Jan:	1.1	2.5	4.7	-56.0	-76.6
Unadjusted	Rate/100	Jan:	.7	1.2	3.1	-41.7	-77.4
Layoff Rate							
Seasonally Adjusted	Rate/100	Jan:	4.0	1.9	1.2	110.5	233.3
Unadjusted	Rate/100	Jan:	3.6	2.2	1.1	63.6	227.3
Accession Rate							
Seasonally Adjusted	Rate/100	Jan:	3.5	3.6	5.6	-2.8	-37.5
Unadjusted	Rate/100	Jan:	2.4	2.0	3.9	20.0	-38.5
Average Weekly Hours-Mfg.							
Seasonally Adjusted	Hours	Feb:	36.6	37.2	38.8	-1.6	-5.7
Unadjusted	Hours	Feb:	36.3	37.2	38.5	-2.4	-5.7
Business Main Gains							
Seasonally Adjusted	Number	Mar:	118	58	102	103.4	15.7
Unadjusted	Number	Mar:	136	64	122	112.5	11.5
New Corporations	Number	Mar:	102	104	152	-1.9	-32.9
Withdrawals & Dissolutions of Corporations	Number	Mar:	18	20	25	-10.0	-28.0

* *New Series*

INDICATOR	Unit	MONTHLY DATA Latest Month 1975		Last Month	Last Year	PERCENT CHANGE Last Month	Last Year
COINCIDING INDICATORS							
Unemployment Rate							
Seasonally Adjusted	Percent	Mar:	8.3	8.1	6.3	2.5	31.7
Unadjusted	Percent	Mar:	9.6	10.0	7.6	-4.0	26.3
Unemployment Total							
Seasonally Adjusted	Thousands	Mar:	27.9	27.0	19.9	3.3	40.2
Unadjusted	Thousands	Mar:	31.3	31.7	23.4	-1.3	33.8
Insured Unemployed							
Seasonally Adjusted	Avg.Wkly No.	Mar:	8,787	9,631	5,615	-8.8	56.5
Unadjusted	Avg.Wkly No.	Mar:	14,015	16,960	8,967	-17.4	56.3
Manufacturing Employment							
Seasonally Adjusted	Thousands	Feb:	23.3	23.6	24.4	-1.3	-4.5
Unadjusted	Thousands	Feb:	22.7	23.0	23.7	-1.3	-4.2
New Car Registrations							
Seasonally Adjusted	Number	Mar:	2,435	2,750	1,634	-11.5	49.0
Unadjusted	Number	Mar:	2,620	2,145	1,758	22.1	49.0
Residential Power Sales							
Seasonally Adjusted	Index	Feb:	155.1	145.9	141.2	6.3	9.8
Unadjusted	Index	Feb:	191.3	188.5	174.1	1.5	9.9
Manufacturing Power Sales							
Seasonally Adjusted	Million KWH	Feb:	396.4	441.1	415.9	-10.1	-4.7
Unadjusted	Million KWH	Feb:	388.4	424.2	407.6	-8.4	-4.7
Commercial - Industrial Power Sales							
Seasonally Adjusted	Index	Jan:	129.3	134.2	116.8	-3.7	10.7
Unadjusted	Index	Jan:	128.3	133.4	115.9	-3.8	10.7
Bank Loans	Index 1974	Dec:	240.8	---	214.6	---	12.2
Bank Debits							
Seasonally Adjusted	$1,000,000	Feb:	1,675.4	2,360.0	1,475.3	-29.0	13.6
Unadjusted	$1,000,000	Feb:	1,648.6	2,069.7	1,293.8	-20.3	27.4
Bank Deposits	Index 1974	Dec:	214.3	---	197.4	---	8.6

INDICATOR	Unit	MONTHLY DATA Latest Month 1975		Last Month	Last Year	PERCENT CHANGE Last Month	Last Year
SELECTED INDICATORS							
Employment - Lumber and Wood Products							
Seasonally Adjusted	Thousands	Feb:	8.4	8.2	9.5	2.4	-11.6
Unadjusted	Thousands	Feb:	8.1	7.9	9.2	2.5	-12.0
Farmers Parity Ratio	Ratio 1974	Dec:	66	---	87	---	-24.1
Montana Nonag. Employment	Index	Feb:	114.1	114.4	116.3	-.3	-1.9
U. S. Nonag. Employment	Index	Jan:	117.3	118.0	116.3	-.6	.9
Natural Gas Withdrawals							
Seasonally Adjusted	Mil.Cu.Ft.	Jan:	2,557	4,381	4,931	-41.6	-48.1
Unadjusted	Mil.Cu.Ft.	Jan:	4,096	6,190	7,899	-33.8	-48.1
Oil & Gas Wells Completed	Number	Jan:	88	153	91	-42.5	-3.3
Oil Refined							
Seasonally Adjusted	Thous.Bbls	Jan:	4,290	4,028	4,226	6.5	1.5
Unadjusted	Thous.Bbls	Jan:	4,369	4,225	4,205	1.0	1.5
Oil Production	Thous.Bbls	Jan:	1,768	2,844	2,907	-2.7	-4.8
Taxable Gallons Gasoline							
Seasonally Adjusted	Gallons	Feb:	37,276	40,163	37,369	-7.2	-.2
Unadjusted	Gallons	Feb:	28,261	32,027	28,329	-11.8	-.2
Average Weekly Spendable Earnings	Dollars	Feb:	82.90	83.19	86.96	-.3	-4.7
COMPOSITE INDICATORS							
Montana Composite Index	Index	Jan:	95.8	96.9	102.7	-1.1	-6.7
Marginal Employment Index	Index	Jan:	97.7	96.7	100.7	1.0	-3.0

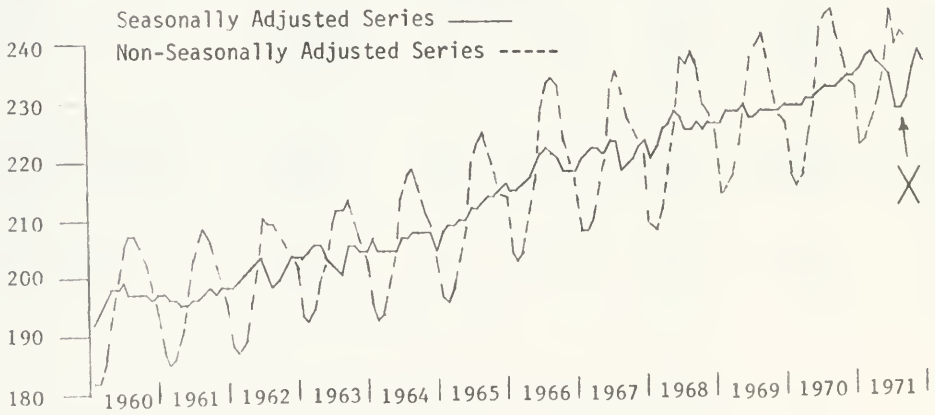
APPENDIX I

GLOSSARY

Seasonal Adjustment - A mathematical procedure in which certain monthly or yearly variations such as climate, holidays, vacation practices, etc., are removed from the statistics. The purpose of this is to simplify analysis over a long period of time and to highlight such non-seasonal occurances as strikes, natural disasters, floods, earthquakes, etc.

Non-Seasonally Adjusted - or "raw" data will not always reflect such occurances precisely because of seasonal influences. For example, the following chart is a graph of total nonagricultural employment for the State of Montana for the years 1960 to 1971.

TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT - MONTANA



Note the erratic nature of the non-adjusted data, and that a non-seasonal phenomena occurred in 1971 directly above the "X" mark. During this period a labor-management dispute occurred and the seasonally adjusted figures emphasize this point whereas the dispute is not readily apparent in the non-adjusted data. A word of caution is due at this point about non-adjusted and adjusted data. Adjusted data is not a "substitute" for actual data, and should in no way be used as such.

Economic Indicators - Statistical time series whose cyclical characteristics are known and fairly stable, particularly in the timing of their cyclical peaks and troughs relative to business cycle turns. Economic Indicators are used for the interpretation of current, and the anticipation of prospective, business conditions.

Leading Indicators - An economic series that tends to reverse direction sufficiently in advance of changes in total business activity. The peaks and troughs of this type of indicator generally occur from three to several months previous to the peak or trough in total business activity.

Coincidental Indicators - An economic series that tends to parallel the same general pattern of total business activity.

Selected Indicators - A cyclical time series whose true value as an economic indicator is not yet known.

Lagging Indicators - An economic series that tends to reverse direction (reach its peaks or troughs) some time after the total business pattern has changed.

Other Indicators - A statistical series that combines the cyclical changes of the other types of economic indicators. For example, personal income generally lags at the peaks, and leads at the troughs of total business activity.

Montana Composite Index - A composite of six leading indicators of employment and economic activity: Building Permits, Manufacturing Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Average Weekly Initial Claims, Accession Rate and Layoff Rate. A reverse trend has been used for Layoff Rate and Average Weekly Initial Claims. The components are converted to series of standardized changes and weighted according to their significance and reliability as economic indicators in making the composite. This composite index is not comparable to the U. S. composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.

Marginal Employment Adjustments Index - A composite of four leading indicators of employment changes or adjustments: Average Weekly Hours, Average Weekly Initial Claims, Layoff Rate, and Accession Rate. In producing the composite these components are seasonally adjusted, converted to series of standardized changes, and weighted according to their significance and reliability as economic indicators. This composite indicator tends to lead changes in the unemployment rate by approximately five months.

Labor Turnover - The movement of wage and salary workers in and out of employment status.

Accessions - All permanent or temporary additions to the employment rolls, which include new hires and other accessions.

New Hires - Permanent and temporary additions to employment rolls of persons who have never been employed by a specific reporting establishment. This includes former employees who have been rehired although not specifically recalled by the reporting employer.

Other Accessions - Additions to the employment rolls of transfers from other establishments of the same company; employees returning from military service or unpaid leaves of absence; employees specifically recalled by an employer.

Separations - The termination of employment of persons who quit, are laid off, discharged, retire, die, are inducted into the military for service exceeding 30 consecutive days, suffer physical disabilities, or are transferred to other divisions of the same company.

Quits - The termination of employment initiated by an employee for any reason other than retirement, transfer, or service in the Armed Forces.

Layoffs - Suspension from pay status of an employee, expected to last seven consecutive days. This action must be initiated by the employer without prejudice to the worker, for reasons such as lack of orders, model changeover, termination of seasonal employment, inventory-taking, plant breakdown, shortage of materials.

SERIES BREAK - Pages 9 and 11

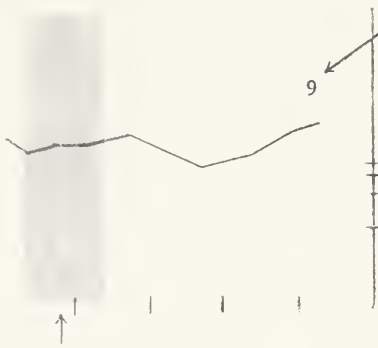
Beginning with January 1970, the following series, Montana Nonagricultural Employment Index, Montana Civilian Labor Force Index, Unemployment Rate, and Unemployment Total, were changed to reflect a change in the concept of measuring employment requested by the U. S. Department of Labor of all State Employment Security Agencies. The change was made to ensure comparability between states, and to make employment data published by this agency for Montana comparable to national labor force concepts. Civilian Labor Force series now reflect a count of employed and unemployed persons by place of residence (known as household data) rather than by place of work (known as establishment data). The years 1970, 1971, 1972, and 1973 were revised to the household concept and as a result data after January 1970 are not strictly comparable to data published earlier.

Conceptually, the difference between the old "Work Force" and the new "Labor Force" series is that the new series eliminates duplicate counting of multiple job holders, and persons who work in Montana but reside in another state. However, people who live in Montana but work elsewhere are included in the new "Labor Force" estimates.

Household and establishment data supplement one another and the Montana Employment Security Division will continue to publish establishment data for nonagricultural industries on employment, hours and earnings, labor turnover and job vacancy for those users who need this type of information.

APPENDIX II

KEY



Arabic numbers above graph lines indicate the last month of the year for which data have been plotted.

"A" indicates that scale is arithmetic. "L1", "L2", or "L3" indicate a ratio (semilogarithmic) scale of 1, 2, or 3 decks respectively.

Shaded areas on the graph indicate recession periods in the United States as designated by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Broken lines on graphs indicate that data is not available for that time period.

Montana's indicators have been classified into three types; Leading, Coinciding, and Selected. The classification of Montana's Leading and Coinciding Indicators parallels the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis classification. This has been done to facilitate an easier and more accurate comparison of individual indicators with those of the nation. (This classification, however, does not mean that the Montana Employment Service has endorsed any particular economic theory.)

Historical data available upon request.

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
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The Montana State Employment Service maintains 23 local employment offices in the principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, additional labor market information, and for other services in connection with your employment problems.